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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000439

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA AND SPECIAL ENVOY MITCHELL
NSC FOR SHAPIRO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/22/2019

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SUBJECT: BAHRAINI BLOGS REACT NEGATIVELY TO CROWN PRINCE'S EDITORIAL; ELITES SKEPTICAL REF: MANAMA 435 Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for

- 1.(U) Summary: The July 17 op-ed by Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa in the Washington Post has struck a nerve with the public
- 2.(U) On July 20, both Sunni and Shia blogs were replete with negative reactions to Sheikh Salman's editorial, which they read as calling for r
- 3.(U) The Sunni blog Muntadayat Kingdom of Bahrain posted dozens of negative comments, some of which were accompanied by photos from Gaza of de
4. (U) Reaction in the print media has been more nuanced. (Taking on the palace is not something the press here does lightly.) Local Arabic de
- 5.(C) Pro-government papers derided Abdul-Bari al Atwan for casting suspicion on the Crown Prince's motives and labeled him "a trumpet" of crit
- 6.(U) Bahrain's major political parties, including the Shia opposition society Al Wefaq, have thus far remained silent. National Democratic Act
- 7.(C) Many Bahrainis have stated privately that the Crown Prince's piece in the Post piece is not representative of Bahraini public opinion. A
- 8.(C) The Embassy understands that Haaretz wants to interview a GOB official about the Crown Prince's op-ed. Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed
- 9.(C) Comment: Energized, and perhaps emboldened, by his recent discussions with the President, Vice President, Secretary, and others in Washin